

## **Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice March 18, 2005**

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, March 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at DaVinci's Restaurant, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published March 7, 2005 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom McBride, Chairperson of the NCJJ.

The new members were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the group. Austin Brockmeier, Youth member from Cozad, Kay McMinn, Region III, Todd Reckling, HHSS, Gerald Ruiz, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Tanya Terry, Youth member from Cozad. McBride welcomed everyone to the Coalition.

### **II. Roll Call**

**Members present:** Linda Benjamin, James Blue, Charles Brewster, Austin Brockmeier, John Clark, Christopher Connolly, Tom Dorwart, Lawrence Gendler, Kylee Hoffmaster, Thomas McBride, Kay McMinn, Elaine Menzel, Justin Mickles (arrived 10:30), Mark Montgomery, Gerard Piccolo, Todd Reckling, Gerald Ruiz (arrived 10:15), Tanya Terry, and Jerry Watson (arrived 10:15). **Members excused:** Frank Jenson, Ron Johns, Audra Liebig, T.J. McDowell, Kathy Moore, Nancy Oats, and Tim O'Dea. **Members absent:** Myles Davis, Terry Medina, and Danielle Reinke. **Staff present:** Eli McBride, Monica Miles-Steffens, Nancy Steeves, Stephanie Vensky and Jennifer Thrasher.

### **III. Approval of December 17, 2004 Minutes**

#### **Motion**

***A motion was made by Benjamin and seconded by Brewster to approve the December 17, 2004 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)***

#### **IV. Crime Commission Report**

##### **a. Compliance notice from OJJDP**

Miles-Steffens reported OJJDP found Nebraska in compliance with the first three core requirements.

##### **b. New Performance Measures for Title II & Title V**

Miles-Steffens reported she attended a conference in San Diego in January, to learn about implementing standardized performance measures for Title II & Title V grants as required by OJJDP. She is working with Hank Robinson & Leigh Culver from the Juvenile Justice Institute to take the evaluation piece from the grant application and the new performance measures and put them together as one report for the Grant Activity Summary Report. This will eliminate sub-grantee's reporting on their own Goals & Objectives submitted in the original grant applications because the standardized information needs to be reported to OJJDP.

##### **c. Kearney YRTC review**

Miles-Steffens reported YRTC is implementing Family Centered Practice and OJS asked her, along with several other people, to serve on a review team to see how this could be done as well as what is working at the facility, what things could be improved and what are some of the system impacts on the facility they may not have control over.

Reckling stated over the course of the up coming year they are in the process of hiring a new OJS administrator and taking additional steps towards improvement for youth at YRTCs' and the larger system in general.

##### **d. Dept. of Ed potential partnership on after-school programs**

Miles-Steffens reported she volunteered to read 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grants (after-school programs) for the Dept. of Education. She said the Dept. of Ed has some resources and training opportunities they are willing to share with our after school sub-grantees. It may also help provide us some guidance in the future for the expectations/structure of after school programs we may want to fund.

Watson arrived 10:15.

Ruiz arrived 10:15.

##### **e. Update of County Plans**

Miles-Steffens stated it is time for most counties to update their county plan. She is working with Hank at JJI to put together an updated template to help counties look at what they have already accomplished from their first plan, how to examine each point in their system and prioritizing problems and solutions.

#### **V. Sub-Committee Reports**

##### **a. Executive: Appointments; legislative update**

McBride stated the Executive Committee convened by conference call to discuss agenda items for the Coalition meeting. The committee also discussed LB193, the bill brought forward by Senator Thompson that would move the County Aid Program from HHS to the Crime Commission. It has now been made a Speakers priority bill.

**b. DMC: Report on DMC initiatives; Title V grant**

Miles-Steffens reported the DMC Committee met prior to the Coalition meeting. She said good things are happening across the state. Lancaster and Douglas County have active DMC teams and they are currently looking at implementing some policy and procedure changes such as sending out letters or postcards to remind people of court dates. Miles-Steffens announced Title V funds are available this year and applications are due by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She said these funds were focused toward specific DMC projects.

Mickles arrived 10:30.

**c. Grant Review**

Piccolo reported Title II and Juvenile Services grant review consisted of five sessions over a three day period. The committee was happy with the implementation of the new process of Grant Review Committee members participating on staff review rather than having a separate review meeting. Title V and Juvenile Accountability Block Grants are set for review May 20<sup>th</sup>. The DMC Committee volunteered to help review Title V grants.

Miles-Steffens thanked everyone who participated in reviewing the grants and their comments.

**d. Youth**

McBride stated we have all youth member appointments made and the Coalition can now start reviving this committee. He thanked all the new youth members for their interest and participation. Blue volunteered to chair the committee and Benjamin also volunteered to help with the committee.

Blue asked what work had been done on the purpose or vision of the youth committee.

Miles-Steffens said the previous youth committee had developed a youth manual that discusses how to develop a youth committee, what works and doesn't work. This group can work from that as a starting point and can move forward and form their own vision. McMinn and Recking also offered to connect the youth committee with other youth advocacy groups across the state.

**VI. Approve payment of lunch**

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Brewster and seconded by Menzel to approve funds to provide lunch. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Blue, Brewster, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, Terry, and Watson. Dorwart, and Gendler abstained. (Motion carried).***

**VII. Approval of 2004 Title II & 2005 Juvenile Services Grants**

Miles-Steffens gave a brief overview of Title II grant funds and reasons for either award or denial. She stated based on the committee's recommendations, there were excess funds in Title II, therefore three applications were transferred for award from Juvenile Services. There was discussion about the contingency in 04-JJ-10 regarding making the handbook applicable statewide. After reviewing the sample handbook from Iowa it

was determined that this was a realistic contingency and could be beneficial statewide.

### Motion

***A motion was made by Brewster and seconded by Connolly to approve the 2004 Title II grant funds. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Brewster, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Dorwart (abstained 10), Gendler (abstained 3 & 4), Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo (abstained 12), Ruiz (abstained 12), Terry, and Watson (abstained 12). Blue and Reckling abstained. (Motion carried).***

### Approve:

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04-JJ-01	Buffalo County- Kearney (Buffalo Co. Juvenile Diversion) (\$41,000)	\$30,794
04-JJ-02	Merrick County (Juvenile Services/Diversion Coord.) (\$16,000)	\$8,000
04-JJ-04	Sarpy County - Papillion (Sarpy County Assessment Center) (\$34,250)	\$23,000
04-JJ-05	Otoe County- Nebraska City (Otoe County Juvenile Diversion) (\$36,000)	\$36,000
04-JJ-06	Douglas County- Omaha (Juvenile Assessment Center) (\$183,795)	\$144,815
04-JJ-07	University of Nebraska at Omaha- Omaha (DMC/Evaluation Project) (\$65,000)	\$69,532
04-JJ-08	University of Nebraska at Omaha- Omaha (Gage Co. Truancy Reduction Initiative) (\$0)	\$29,614
04-JJ-10	The Separate Juv. Court of Douglas Co. (Juvenile Handbook) (\$0)	\$11,250
04-JJ-12	Hall County- Grand Island (Juv. Accountability/Probation Intake Officer) (\$0)	\$40,000
04-JJ-13	Omaha Tribe of Nebraska- Macy (Mark of Honor Therapy Program) (\$33,000)	\$24,750
04-JJ-16	Cedars Youth Services- Lincoln (Southwest Nebraska Juvenile Diversion Services) (\$39,500)	\$29,625
04-JJ-18	Heartland Family Service- Omaha (Probation Tracker Program) (\$30,000)	\$20,000
04-JJ-20	Platte Valley Diversion Program (Bilingual Diversion Officer) (\$0)	\$13,320

04-JJ-21	Dakota County Commissioners- Dakota City (Juvenile Electronic Monitoring) (\$0)	\$5,196
04-JJ-22	Nebraska Crime Commission- Lincoln (Compliance Monitoring) (\$43,786)	\$22,492
04-JJ-23	Lincoln Action Program (The HUB)(82,549- Challenge)(Was 05-JS-417)	\$82,549
04-JJ-24	CEDARS Youth Services (Youth As Resources)(\$48,750)(Was 05-JS-419)	\$36,563
04-JJ-25	Lutheran Family Services of NE (Johnson & Pawnee Counties Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Program) (\$0) (Was 05-JS-433)	\$43,500

**Deny:**

04-JJ-03	Sarpy County - Papillion (Sarpy County Juv. Day/Evening Reporting Ctr.) (\$0)
04-JJ-09	Fourth Judicial District- Douglas Co. (Young Adult Court) (\$0)
04-JJ-11	Asian Community & Cultural Ctr. (Strengthening Families-Asian Center Program) (\$0)
04-JJ-14	Omaha Nation Community- Macy (ONCRT Community Diversion Program) (\$0)
04-JJ-15	Lincoln Action Program (Youth & Community Together) (\$0)
04-JJ-17	Lancaster County (Substance Abuse Alternative) (\$0)
04-JJ-19	Holt County- O'Neill (Youth Resources Program) (\$0)

Miles-Steffens opened the floor for any discussion on the Juveniles Services grant funds. She pointed out over \$1,600,000 in requests and only \$587,812 to award. There was discussion about 05-JS-402. There was a question regarding why other afterschool programs were funded and this one was not recommended. Miles-Steffens explained that the committee did not think the time frame was long enough and that the only activity in this program was academics. The committee was looking for programs that youth attended all year and provided other opportunities such as life skills and recreation. There was a question regarding 05-JS-411, the after school application in Loup City. Miles-Steffens explained the committee did not recommend this program as we already fund Sherman County for a similar program and there did not appear to be enough planning or coordination with existing efforts. A final question was asked regarding 05-JS-414. There was concern that these services were really needed in this

area. Miles-Steffens showed the grant application and illustrated that there was simply not enough information in the grant to understand what the applicant was asking for.

### Motion

***A motion was made by Connolly and seconded by Menzel to approve the 2005 Juvenile Services grant funds. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Brewster, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Dorwart (abstained 409 & 410), Gendler, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Ruiz, Terry, and Watson. Blue and Reckling abstained. (Motion carried).***

### Approve:

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05-JS-400	WE CAN Regional Consortium (Kids Talk About Divorce) (\$0)	\$19,054
05-JS-401	Sherman County- Loup City (Sherman Co. Youth Prevention & Diversion) (\$19,800)	\$14,850
05-JS-403	Crete Public Schools (Crete Cardinal Zone) (\$0)	\$35,000
05-JS-404	Otoe County- Nebraska City (Otoe Co. STARS Project) (\$30,195)	\$22,646
05-JS-405	Lancaster County (Youth Excelling in School YES Truancy Prevention) (\$61,823)	\$61,822
05-JS-406	Lancaster County (Minority Outreach Diversion MOD) (\$19,008)	\$14,256
05-JS-407	Lancaster County (Community Integration Team CIT) (\$30,690)	\$23,018
05-JS-408	Lancaster County (Project SEEK) (\$25,987)	\$19,490
05-JS-410	Sidney Public Schools (Youth As Resources/Support Through Intervention) (\$40,095)	\$30,000
05-JS-412	Rushville/Gordon Public Schools (Achievers Consortium) (\$0)	\$40,000
05-JS-415	YWCA Adams County (After School Zone) (\$37,053)	\$23,617
05-JS-422	Seward County BRIDGES (Seward Co. After school program) (\$20,349)	\$13,000

05-JS-423	<b>CEDARS Youth Services (Central Nebraska Wraparound Services) (\$49,500)</b>	<b>\$37,125</b>
05-JS-424	<b>Girl Scouts – Homestead Council (GS in the PM) (\$0)</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
05-JS-425	<b>Camp Fire USA Midlands Council (Action Pact South) (\$26,174)</b>	<b>\$17,625</b>
05-JS-426	<b>Omaha Fire Department (Juvenile Fire Starters Diversion Program) (\$34,031)</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
05-JS-427	<b>GLW Children’s Council, Inc. (GLW CC Juvenile Services Program) (\$0)</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
05-JS-430	<b>Good Beginnings (Franklin After School Program) (\$0)</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
05-JS-432	<b>Blue Valley Community Action (Jefferson Community Coalition Juvenile Services) (\$33,412)</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
05-JS-434	<b>Lutheran Family Services (Program for Children &amp; Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems) (\$46,530)</b>	<b>\$34,897</b>
05-JS-435	<b>Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. (4-County Mentoring Program) (\$44,550)</b>	<b>\$33,412</b>

**Deny:**

05-JS-402	<b>Kearney Public Schools Foundation (Paw PRIDE) (\$0)</b>	
05-JS-409	<b>Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners (Scotts Bluff Co. Juvenile Drug Court) (\$19,712-Juv. Accountability)</b>	
05-JS-411	<b>Loup City Public Schools (After School Program) (\$0)</b>	
05-JS-413	<b>Uta Halee Girls Village (Uta Halee After School Program) (\$0)</b>	
05-JS-414	<b>Child Development Council of Adams County (Transitional/Independent Living) (\$0)</b>	
05-JS-416	<b>JOURNEYS (JOURNEYS Community Reintegration Grant) (\$0)</b>	
05-JS-417	<b>Lincoln Action Program (The HUB) (\$82,549-Challenge)(Now 04-JJ-23)</b>	
05-JS-418	<b>Lancaster County (Truancy Court) (\$0)</b>	

- 05-JS-419 CEDARS Youth Services (Youth As Resources) (\$48,750-Title II)(Now 04-JJ-24)**
- 05-JS-420 CEDARS Youth Services (The Amazing Race Program) (\$0)**
- 05-JS-421 CEDARS Youth Services (Southwest Nebraska Wraparound Services) (\$0)**
- 05-JS-428 Homer Involvement with Adults & Youth (After school/Recreation Program) (\$0)**
- 05-JS-429 South Sioux City Community Schools (Building Bridges) (\$0)**
- 05-JS-431 Release Ministries (Juvenile Justice Mentoring Program) (\$0)**
- 05-JS-433 Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. (Johnson & Pawnee Counties Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Program) (\$0)(Now 04-JJ-25)**

The meeting broke briefly at 12:00 to distribute lunches and resumed at 12:20.

Reckling stepped out 12:00.

#### **VIII. Update on Juvenile Data Sharing Project**

Miles-Steffens stated the consultant MTG presented at the Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) conference in North Platte. A handout was provided in the mailout showing how the project is progressing and the final report should be complete by the end of March.

#### **IX. CJJ dues discussion**

McBride stated that the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice had sent an invoice and packet of information to states regarding membership dues for 2005.

McBride reminded the group that the dues had been raised from \$2,000 to \$5,000 last year and pointed out that the dues remains at \$5,000 this year. Last year the group discussed paying the dues and voted not to for several reasons. The first was concern about the increase in the dues, yet the state continues to get less money to expend. The second reason the group did not vote to pay last year was disappointment in quality of conferences and the feeling that CJJ was not a strong enough lobbying voice on the hill to justify the amount of dues being requested. NCJJ did decide to evaluate this on an annual basis.

Mickles asked where the group benefits most from the dues. Miles-Steffens said other states have requested in writing what their dues go for and they haven't got a response.

She said NCJJ has benefited/participated most in the trainings. She said they would still be able to attend the trainings without being a member for a little more money.

After further discussion the committee felt there was no new evidence or justification to pay the 2005 CJJ dues.



**Motion**

***A motion was made by Brewster and seconded by Blue not to pay the 2005 CJJ \$5,000 dues. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Blue, Brewster, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Dorwart, Gendler, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Ruiz, Terry, and Watson. (Motion carried).***

Reckling returned 12:45

McBride welcomed Gerald Ruiz as a new member to the Coalition. Ruiz is from Grand Island and recently retired from the State Patrol and will finish his masters in counseling in July.

- X. Approve Travel to: CJJ spring conference – Washington DC, April 19-23; Child Welfare League JJ conference, June 1-3 Miami, FL; Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association, Grand Island, May 5-6**

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Brewster and seconded by Connolly to approve up to 8 people at \$1,600 each to attend the CWLA conference in Miami, June 1-3 and up to 5 people at \$500 each to attend the NJJA conference in Grand Island, May 5-6. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Blue, Brewster, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Reckling, Ruiz, Terry, and Watson. Dorwart and Gendler abstained. (Motion carried).***

Blue left the meeting at 1:00.

- XI. Distribution of Report to Governor**

Miles-Steffens distributed copies of the completed report to the group. McBride stated a meeting is being set with the Governor to present him with the report and discuss the function, purpose and the future of the Coalition. He said he was waiting for a call back with an exact date and time. Miles-Steffens commented next year there should be more concrete statistics about the outcomes of the grant programs to add due to the new evaluation and performance measures.

- XII. Approval of 2005 JABG federal application**

Miles-Steffens informed the group that the application was submitted by the February deadline, however if the group had any recommended changes these could be made by contacting our OJJDP representative. She said the request for Juvenile Accountability was \$465,600, which was allocated last year. The actual 2005 allocation has not been released yet, but the Crime Commission was advised by OJJDP to apply for last years amount. Miles-Steffens provided a copy of the federal application to the Coalition for approval.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Connolly and seconded by Menzel to approve the 2005 JABG federal application. (Motion carried unanimously).***

### **XIII. Discussion of JABG interest proposals**

Miles-Steffens began by reminding the group that the JABG program allows the earning of interest off the award, which can be spent in the approved JABG purpose areas. She provided a copy of potential projects that could be supported with JABG interest money. She pointed out for FY2002 \$55,000 in Administrative funds and \$55,608+ in interest funds need to be spent by September 2005. FY2003 there is \$66,628 that expires in May 2006 and FY2004 has earned \$2,281.

Miles-Steffens offered some ideas how to use the 2002 funds which need to be spent first. She said we could offer mini grants to counties that do not have computer hardware or software to access the necessary equipment to get on board with the Diversion Case Management System. This would help with the statewide diversion data collection. The second suggestion is implementation for probation of the YLSI. This would require training for 200 probation officers statewide, the purchase of YLSI instruments and to add YLSI scores to the probation case management system. The last suggestion is to continue to utilize JJI for ongoing technical support to diversion programs for the case management system because the Crime Commission staff do not have the resources to assume this project.

Proposals for 2003 funds would be ongoing funding for JJI for diversion case management system support, and funds to support a new Cedars initiative that would provide intensive technical assistance to counties on how to develop an appropriate diversion program for that county. This project was initiated through Cedars and they are receiving technical assistance through OJJDP for curriculum development and training. Support would be to create brochures, manuals and travel costs for Cedars trainers.

Reckling suggested using the JABG money to fund school intervention workers. Mickles said he would like to see some local support for those positions and how those positions will be sustained.

The group expressed some concern that there was not a lot of time to make a decision about the expenditure of these funds and it would be helpful to have more time in the future. Miles-Steffens acknowledged that keeping on top of the interest funds has been a struggle. It was suggested by Mickles that targeted projects could be identified in the Three Year Planning process, so that we could avoid this problem in the future. Connolly did point out that these potential projects were all in line with current Three Year Plan priorities.

### **Motion**

***A motion was made by Connolly and seconded by Menzel to approve spending the FY2002 Administrative funds and FY2002 Interest funds for the purpose of funding up to five proposals including the three presented in amounts recommended by staff and approved by the Executive committee to be spent by September. Final budgets and proposals will be given to the Executive committee by April 30<sup>th</sup> for final decision..***

*Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Clark, Connolly, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, and Watson. Voting not in favor of the motion: Brewster, Brockmeier, and Piccolo. Dorwart, Gendler, Reckling, Ruiz, and Terry abstained. (Motion carried).*

**XIV. Discussion and approval of 2005 Title II and Title V federal applications**

Miles-Steffens explained the federal application for Title V funds would continue to be focused toward DMC initiatives. OJJDP has not released the allocations for either program, but we will apply for \$100,000 for Title V based on last years allocation. She gave an overview of the 2005 Three Year Plan Update for Title II application. OJJDP requires the application to be submitted in a specific format with three attachments of the Budget, Program narrative, and DMC plan. It is not clear what the Title II award will be. There is a good chance the award will only be \$600,000 for 2005 due to no changes being made in the JJDP Act to reinstate the supplemental award that increased our annual allocation to \$761,000.

Reckling stepped out 1:30.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Brewster and seconded by Connolly to approve the 2005 Title II and Title V federal applications. (Motion carried).***

Watson stepped out 1:35  
Dorwart stepped out 1:35

**XV. Discussion of support for NJJA conference**

Miles-Steffens reported for several years the Crime Commission has supported the NJJA conference with a contract for \$2,500 to help bring in nationally known keynote speakers. She said the Crime Commission staff would again like to support the NJJA conference. She commented last years conference had a record attendance of 250.

Brewster left 1:45

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Mickles to approve \$2,500 to support the NJJA conference. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Brockmeier, Clark, Connolly, Hoffmaster, McMinn, Menzel, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Ruiz, and Terry. Gendler abstained. (Motion carried).***

Watson returned 1:50  
Dorwart returned 1:50

**XVI. June Meeting: a) Training for members b) Meeting Location c) Three Year Planning kick off**

Discussion was held on changing the date for the June meeting. Discussion was held on brining in new member training by OJJDP for the June meeting. The committee decided to postpone that training until the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to ensure better attendance.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Piccolo and seconded by Mickles to postpone the Training for members to the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Motion carried).***

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Connolly and seconded by Menzel to move the June meeting from June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>. (Motion carried).***

Miles-Steffens stated she would like the committee to be more involved in the three year planning process. She said in May the Executive committee will be meeting to put together a first draft for the full committee to respond to and give their feedback. Hank Robinson from JJI has agreed to help the committee in this process.

**XVII. Discussion of Diversion Rules and Regulations for Data Collection**

Miles-Steffens reported LB43 required the Crime Commission to put together rules and regulations for statewide data collection from juvenile diversion programs. The draft was presented in October at the Diversion conference and a copy provided in the mailout. After the Coalition reviews the draft it will be sent out to all County Attorney's and Diversion programs for comments and recommendations. The draft will go before the Crime Commission in May for final approval and will then be forwarded through the process for ultimate approval by the Governors office.

**Motion**

***A motion was made by Piccolo and seconded by Menzel to approve the draft for Diversion Rules and Regulations for Data Collection. (Motion carried).***

**XVIII. Public Comment**

None

**XIX. New Business/Future Agenda Items**

Judge Gendler pointed out LB505 lowers the juvenile court jurisdiction to age 18. He encouraged anyone who is apposed to contact their state senators.

**XX. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky  
Staff Support